

Facts About Threats to California's Medi-Cal Program

Gathered by the Willits Indivisible Fact Finders Group 4/15/25

“If you take \$500 billion dollars over 10 years from Medi-Cal funding, either healthcare providers are going to fold or healthcare will be drastically limited,” said Mike Thompson, U.S. Representative. (3/8/25)⁴

“Elders with nursing care, people with disabilities, and people who became eligible for Medi-Cal through expansion in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are examples of those who could lose their health care insurance,” said Jared Huffman, U.S. Representative. (3/8/25)⁴

California's Medi-Cal Program: What and who does it affect?

California spends \$161 billion dollars/year for Medi-Cal.

California receives \$112.1 billion dollars from the federal government's Medicaid program.²

15 million or 33% of Californians are enrolled.³

2.2 million are seniors and people with disabilities.²

60% of all seniors and people with disabilities in nursing homes rely on Medi-Cal.²

Behavioral health services such as therapy, medication, psychiatric evaluations and crisis support are involved.⁵

Social support services include housing navigation and food assistance.⁵

5 million kids are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program.²

40% of all births in California are covered under Medi-Cal.²

43,183 or 50% of Mendocino County's population receives Medi-Cal.¹

Willits Unified School District gets reimbursement from Medi-Cal to provide services and equipment: psychological, social work, speech, physical and occupational therapy, hearing aids, and computers for students with disabilities.²

Medicaid/Medi-Cal Administration Cuts:

The Republican backed budget directs the Department of Energy and Commerce (which has Congressional oversight over **Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid**) to **cut \$880 billion** in spending over the next 10 years.⁵

Where is the money going?

\$4.5 trillion dollars in tax cuts favor the wealthy (those making over \$430,000 get $\frac{3}{4}$ of the benefit) and **raises the debt ceiling.**⁶

To pay for the \$4.5 trillion dollar tax cut, California could **lose \$10-\$20 billion dollars** per year as a result of the budget cuts, resulting in reductions to **eligibility, services or provider rates.**⁵

Cutting Medi-Cal could **strain healthcare facilities** like **hospitals** and **clinics** that are already **underfunded**, particularly in **rural areas** where **hospital closures** have outpaced openings in recent years.³

The potential challenges to California are enormous

Many of the **proposed changes** would **shift significant costs to states.** In California, this **cost-shift could exceed \$10 billion per year.**

In order to replace lost federal dollars and **protect the Medi-Cal** program, state leaders would likely **need to raise new state revenue, such as by eliminating tax breaks for the wealthy and profitable corporations.**²

What You Can Do:

Stand up to protect Medi-Cal (Medicaid)

Write/Call your elected representatives in Congress

Vote, Vote, Vote

Citations/Sources:

(1) <https://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/medi-cal-enrollment-by-district-and-county-2024/>

(2) <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/california-at-risk-proposed-federal-funding-cuts-jeopardize-key-services/>

(3) <https://calmatters.org/health/2025/02/medicaid-medi-cal-trump-cuts/>

(4) <https://mendovoice.com/2025/03/congressmen-warn-of-local-impacts-if-health-care-spending-cut/>

(5) <https://calmatters.org/health/mental-health/2025/04/medicaid-cuts-behavioral-health/>

(6) taxpolicycenter.org

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<https://willitsindivisible.org/>